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MEDIA ALERT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Soldiers and families to reunite at “First Drill Back”

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Soldiers from Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery and their families will come together for their first weekend drill since returning in October from a year-long deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The first-time event, called Bravo Battery’s Reunion and Reintegration Drill, will be held this weekend, Jan. 10-11, at the Cedar Shores Resort near Chamberlain. The informative agenda involves topics such as mental wellness and family readjustment, coping with stress, Tri-Care insurance, employer relations, education opportunities, and taxes.

“It’s a chance for the unit members to reconnect with family members and find answers to lingering problems like pay, records, and insurance,” said Lindsay Wermers, yellow ribbon support specialist for the South Dakota National Guard. “It will be a comfortable setting where everyone can openly express their concerns.”

The weekend gathering is part of the newly implemented Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program that is geared to provide informational events and activities for unit members and their families throughout the mobilization process.

Media is encouraged to attend this event. Please contact Maj. Murphy at (605) 737-6721 or cell (605) 431-8753, or e-mail brendan.murphy1@us.army.mil. Contacts at Cedar Shores include Lindsey Wermers at (605) 759-4167 or Toki Morgan at (605) 759-8335.

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NOTE: Since the terrorist attacks on America, the South Dakota National Guard has mobilized more than 3,100 Soldiers and 1,000 Airmen in support of the Global War on Terror. Currently, more than 70 Soldiers and Airmen from the South Dakota National Guard remain on duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations throughout Southwest Asia and Europe. More than 4,300 National Guardsmen are available in South Dakota to provide support for state and national emergencies and homeland defense.